

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 L-03 /038 W  
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P 270912Z JUL 76  
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2478  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 1 1 8 7

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EEWT, US, UR  
SUBJECT: FMC CHAIRMAN BAKKE'S VISIT TO SOVIET UNION

REF: STATE 183435

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. CONGEN OFFICERS PARTICIPATING IN BAKKE VISIT WERE NEVER APPRISED DURING COURSE OF LENINGRAD VISIT THAT FMC CHAIRMAN BAKKE WAS ACTUALLY NEGOTIATING AND CONCLUDING UNDERSTANDING WITH SOVIET MARITIME OFFICIALS, ALTHOUGH GENERAL REFERENCE ON NEED ACHIEVE "PREDICTABILITY" OF SOVIET BEHAVIOR WAS RAISED DURING COURSE JULY 15 WORKING SESSION, AND CONGEN OFFICERS WERE TOLD ON JULY 16 THAT UNSPECIFIED "PUBLIC STATEMENT" ON VISIT BEING WORKED OUT IN UNSCHEDULED SESSIONS BETWEEN BAKKE AND AVERIN. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIOR TO OPENING OF ONLY SCHEDULED WORKING SESSION (JULY 15) BETWEEN FMC DELEGATION AND BALTIC STEAMSHIP COMPANY AUTHORITIES, CONGEN OFFICER (RUECKERT) DISCUSSED NORMAL PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH BAKKE STAFFERS INCLUDING OFFER FOR USE CONGEN COMMUNICATION FACILITIES. HOWEVER HE WAS TOLD AT THAT TIME THAT FMC DELEGATION EXPECTED NOTHING OF REAL SUBSTANCE TO COME OF LENINGRAD TALKS WHICH WERE VIEWED AS "SIDE SHOW" TO MAIN SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE EARLIER WITH MARITIME MINISTRY OFFICIALS. THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT "UNDERSTANDING" WAS UNDER ACTUAL NEGOTIATION BY BAKKE DURING COURSE JULY 15 WORKING SESSION AND FOLLOW-ON WORKING LUNCH WITH BORIS YUNITZIN, PRESIDENT, BALTIC  
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SHIPPING COMPANY AND ASSOCIATION OF SOVIET SHIP OWNERS, HIS STAFF,

AND IGOR AVERIN, SOVIET MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE. BAKKE DID USE SESSION FOR FORCEFUL EXPRESSION OF CONCERN AT COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE -- EXPECIALLY FOR FUTURE -- OF RAPID GROWTH OF SOVIET MARITIME FLEET, WHICH HE NOTED WAS EXPANDING BEYOND ITS NEEDS, INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN CROSS TRADING OUTSIDE NORTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE SYSTEM, AND SOMETIMES SET "UNECONOMIC" TARIFF RATES. HE STRESSED NEED TO "BUILD PREDICTABILITY" INTO SYSTEM. AT CONCLUSION THIS PRESENTATION, AVERIN MADE POINT THAT HE FELT BAKKE'S PRESENTATION, WHILE HARD, "HAD BEEN VERY USEFUL" IN GETTING STEAMSHIP COMPANY REPS TO UNDERSTAND VIEWPOINT OFTEN EXPRESSED BY MINISTRY OFFICIALS. NO MENTION HOWEVER WAS MADE BY ANY PARTY DURING TALKS THAT ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY ON JOINT "UNDERSTANDING".

3. FOLLOWING SCHEDULED TALKS BAKKE ABSENTED HIMSELF ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS FROM GENERAL GROUP FOR PRIVATE TALKS WITH AVERIN. BAKKE DID NOT SHOW UP FOR SCHEDULED EVENING THEATER PERFORMANCE JULY 15 AND HIS AIDES INDICATED AT THAT TIME THAT HE WAS "CLOSETED" BACK AT HOTEL IN FURTHER TALKS WITH AVERIN. FOLLOWING DAY (JULY 16) BAKKE ATTENDED MORNING BRIEFING ON PORT OF LENINGRAD GIVEN BY LENINGRAD PORT MANAGER TEREHOV BUT THEN ABSENTED HIMSELF FROM FOLLOW-TOUR OF HARBOR FOR FURTHER PRIVATE TALKS WITH AVERIN. CONGEN OFFICERS' INQUIRIES ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE THESE UNSCHEDULED TALKS ELICITED ONLY LOW KEY REPLY FROM FMC STAFFERS THAT THEY INVOLVED WORKING OUT AGREED "PUBLIC STATEMENT" WHICH CONGEN OFFICERS ASSUMED TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED PRESS LINE ON TRIP. STAFFERS INDICATED THAT "PUBLIC STATEMENT" WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO CONGEN "IN DUE COURSE". THERE WAS HOWEVER NO FURTHER MENTION OF "PUBLIC STATEMENT" WHEN BAKKE REJOINED GROUP FOR LUNCH ABOARD SOVIET SHIP. NOR WAS SUBJECT RAISED IN FINAL BRIEF VISIT TO CONGEN MORNING JULY 17 BY FMC STAFFERS BAYER AND SMITH MAINLY FOR PURPOSE OF ELICITING ASSISTANCE IN SHIPPING BACK NOMINAL GIFTS RECEIVED DURING TRIP.

4. COMMENT: WE CAN ONLY ASSUME FROM EXCLUSION OF CONGEN OFFICERS FROM "PRIVATE" TALKS BETWEEN BAKKE AND AVERIN, EVASIVE REPLIES ON SUBSTANCE OF PRIVATE TALKS AND RELUCTANCE USE CONGEN COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, THAT CONSCIOUS DECISION HAD BEEN MADE BY FMC DELEGATION AT OUTSET TO PLAY CARDS ON AGREEMENT VERY CLOSE TO THEIR OWN CHEST. DETAILED REPORT ON JULY 15 WORKING CONFIDENTIAL

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SESSION BEING SENT SEPTTEL.

RUECKERT

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## Message Attributes

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